

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives the following important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 14, NO. 3.

CONSCRIPTION FOR LABOR; MILD REGULATION FOR CAPITAL WORKERS RESIST REACTION; ARE URGING SOCIAL LAWS

Several proposals are pending in Congress to "conscript capital and labor at the next national emergency."

The term "national emergency" is not defined. It may mean anything. One of these proposals would authorize the president to draft "such members of the unorganized militia as may be deemed necessary" whenever Congress declares "a national emergency" exists.

This would supplement the labor injunction, and would be a handy weapon for big business when confronted by an extensive strike.

The French government used this method several years ago when railroad strikers were "called to the colors." These workers, then in the uniform of the French army, were compelled to

break their own strike. Aside from this sinister feature of the proposal, there is no intention to conscript capital.

It is regulation of capital—price fixing by the government—that is provided for, under the rule, on a smaller scale, during the world war.

Regulation of capital is not unusual. In peace time the railroads and other public utilities are regulated.

It is now proposed to simply extend this regulation to all industry during war time. This will appeal to long-headed business men who fear that inflation, which raises prices and causes popular unrest.

There will be profits under price regulation, though probably not so dangerously high as during the world war. Big business may be willing to accept less tremendous profits, as this is too great a strain on the financial structure

and breeds an ugly spirit among the populace. It is a return for limiting profits to a "reasonable" figure big business hopes to secure the one thing it longs for—the control of workers.

It is planned to conscript labor. The worker will have no voice in his work or his wages.

Statesmen, business men and military men agree to this, while their publicity agents sugar-coat the plan by its untruthful reference to "conscription of capital."

Big business is not frightened. It understands. It helps spread the fiction that the proposed regulation of capital is "conscripting capital."

Labor believes there should be no favoritism in the hour of common peril. When the nation is fighting for its existence there should be no privilege for classes and no profits, even though these

be "reasonable." But special privilege will not agree to the proposed conscription. Instead, it would have the people believe it yields in a national crisis, while it plans to come out of the next war with increased power.

Control of prices is necessary for big business. Sky-rocketing values make labor restless.

If the workers are not brought to a fighting pitch because of profiteering, big business is hopeful that war-time conscription can be more easily enforced.

If the workers do not object too strongly to being the only ones who are conscripted in war time, big business will try to continue the system in peace time.

To make this possible the dollar must be held within "reasonable" bounds while the people are dragged by fairy tales of "conscripted capital."

Washington, April 5.—In their report to the President, the American Federation of Labor and Congresses of the World, legislative representatives single out the conscription of capital for special consideration.

Reported by W. C. Roberts, E. F. McGrady and Edgar Wallace, names these nine "outstanding measures for which labor is contending":

Immigration, for the protection of American people.

Settlement of disputes between railroads and employees.

Child labor amendment to the constitution.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Whole No. 678.

Workers resist reaction; are urging social laws.

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LABOR DOESN'T FAVOR NEW YORK COSSACKS

Chicago, April 5.—Officers of the New York state cossacks overruled the opposition of the labor unionists that trade unions of their state are supporting them.

The yarn was told by Major Warner and Lieutenant Moore, who came to Chicago in the interest of the legislation that Illinois employers annul an attempt to foster on the state.

In the reckless manner that betrays cossack propagandists, Major Warner

"Organized labor is now one of the strongest supports of the cossacks. Labor leaders have often sought our protection in the unwarranted attacks of special police, special deputies, and such."

The Old Grumpy press shrieked its rage at this alleged support of the cossacks. Their delight was to see the cossacks, their delight was to see the cossacks, their delight was to see the cossacks.

And men whose opinions are entitled to respect declare that these cossacks ought not to be recruited; that they are preventable."

Profits unchecked: records are broken.

New York, April 5.—A profit for 1923 of \$1,602,215 is announced by the Remington typewriting company.

This is a record for the company, and interest have been cared for.

The General Electric company's net income last year was \$38,001,526, after maintenance, depreciation, reserves and taxes were provided for.

Last year's financial report of R. H. Macy & Co. shows a net profit of \$3,337,887 after dividends and all other charges were paid.

The net profit of General Motors corporation last year was \$55,180,154 after dividends, taxes and other charges.

Prisoners chained in west coast camp.

San Bernardino, Cal., April 5.—Twenty prisoners of the local penitentiary are subjected to brutal treatment by the guards.

The story relates that prisoners are chained to the walls of the cell, and are treated with the most brutal of methods.

LET STATE OWN POWER.

Portland, Me., April 5.—State ownership of power is favored by delegates to the central labor union.

WANT MARINE BAND TO PLAY AT FAIRS.

Washington, April 5.—Congressman Mordred of Nebraska has introduced legislation to have a marine band to play at fairs and exhibitions in the south-west.

OPPOSE COUNTY PRISONS.

Philadelphia, April 5.—Abolition of county prisons as penal institutions and the substitution of four or five big penitentiaries are favored by Louis Robinson, chairman of the state penitentiary board.

ANTY STEEL HIS JOB.

Hartford, Conn., April 5.—There is no strike in the local building industry the past year.

COAL MINERS KILLED: NO NEED FOR TRAGEDY

Boston, April 5.—"Another batch of 24 lives gone in the eternal scramble for coal," says the Boston Herald, in a bitter editorial on the coal strike.

More than 2,500 lives have been sacrificed in accidents at the mines, and nearly all of these in the darkness underground, says the editor, who presents this picture of the coal strike.

"The same scenes repeated again and again as these accidents follow close on the heels of other; the explosion, the cold, the darkness, the suffocation, the women and children in every habitation in the town; the minutes and hours of waiting, the men who defy death in the face of the danger."

"The cruelty of depriving human beings of their lives in the face of the fact that I am writing to you is so glaring that I am sure to be reported."

Four days later the governor again visited the company.

"I have in my hand a notice of the Vinton company, addressed by name and house number, and signed by Otto Hoffman, superintendent of the company."

The evidence of willful misrepresentation, of the company, would be if any of your explanation, if any."

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FLINTY COAL BARONS WOULD EVICT STRIKERS

Clearfield, Pa., April 5.—The United Mine Workers have checked the attempt of the coal barons to evict more than 500 striking miners from the mines.

The company operates in Vinton, Va., and employs 1,000 men. It has a wage cut of \$2.50 a day. Six hundred men have been evicted from the mines.

The United Mine Workers, the union which has been in the strike for over a year, has evicted more than 500 striking miners from the mines.

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Workers Winning Their Fight; Labor Injunction Foes Increase

Chicago, April 5.—For the first time in Illinois, the candidates in the state primaries of the two political parties are announcing their opposition to the injunction.

This concession to public opinion is traceable to the Illinois state primary, which provides for the election of a state anti-injunction campaign.

No candidate has dared to back the labor injunction. The candidates are announcing their opposition to the injunction.

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